

STATE OF MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON REGULATORY REFORM
HB 4593, 4594, AND 4595
TESTIMONY OF FRIEDLAND INDUSTRIES

My name is Larry Bass, and I am CEO of Friedland Industries. The Friedland family has been in scrap processing and material recycling on the same corner in Lansing for over 125 years, since 1886. When David Friedland began in business, he located 1 block from the main corner of what was then Lansing's downtown, as the oldest enterprise in what is now Old Town. Friedland Industries still operates there today. Two of my children are the 4th generation in the scrap processing business, and we have served some of the same families and their businesses as customers for many of those years.

Over the years, our family has seen Michigan's economy flourish and flounder, and we continue to serve our community today as we did long ago in the horse and buggy era. This is true because, although it may not be obvious to the untrained eye, practically

every metal or paper object you use today has already been recycled from previous uses before it reached your hands.

The story of our family business - and of every established scrap processing and recycling business, is the story of how metal, paper, or now even plastic and computer material begins its journey from once-new, to used or obsolete material, to new, energy and ecologically friendly, recycled goods. We like to call our business "mining above the ground" for if we did not recycle these materials, we as a society would be dependent on ever-increasing mining and natural resource consumption for all of our metal and paper needs. In fact, manufacturing new steel made from scrap metal uses approximately 70% less energy than steel made from newly-mined iron ore. Similar savings are achieved through recycling paper and non-ferrous metals.

Our family, and our recycling businesses, have played a vital role in our community for over a century. My business partner and I have served in leadership positions as volunteer board members in Sparrow Health System and its affiliates for over 25 years. We have worked with leaders of industry, government, and law enforcement to improve our community, teach it to be green, adapt to changes in the world around us,

and still lead in environmental causes as we have done long before it became fashionable to be green. We have ALWAYS been part of the economic and environmental SOLUTION, NOT the PROBLEM.

In recent years, as the economy in the world, the nation, and more so in Michigan have been in upheaval and in need of reinvention, parts of our state have seen lawlessness in a number of forms, including theft of personal property. We have learned that the most reliable approach to battling metal theft lies in providing EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT of existing laws.

We feel a very strong connection to the community in Lansing, as well as to the State of Michigan. We have employed multiple generations of other Lansing families, and provided countless contributions, both financially, and in community service, in order to improve the lives of our citizens.

As a member of ISRI, we fully support the position our trade association is taking today, as we strongly believe that these bills require certain modifications in order to be workable and only in such case could they earn our support.